



A message from your
Missouri Public Service Commission
Energy Department

Warning! No Free Lunch! Or Electricity Either!

Devices are being offered for sale on the Internet and other sources that promise to reduce the homeowner's electric bills. All one has to do is plug one of these gadgets into your household electric service meter socket. It seems easy, doesn't it?

Well, maybe not!

First and foremost, it is exceedingly **dangerous** for an unqualified person to be tampering with a utility's electric meter. If the voltage available at your service drop is enough to power your whole house, what do you think it might do to you under the wrong conditions?



Second, meter tampering is unlawful in Missouri, besides being unpopular with your local electric utility. The utility can shut off your service if you are found to be making unauthorized adjustments to your metering. If you want to look it up, you can find the state law defining this as a Class A Misdemeanor under Missouri Revised Statutes Chapter 569 Section .090.

Third, although the theories claimed to be behind some of these advertised gadgets may be legitimate, that doesn't mean it will actually work for *you*. Suppose you saw an ad for automobile tires that were supposed to improve your gas mileage. You wouldn't send off an order for these tires without first knowing whether they would even fit your car! Likewise, any electrical device that would change the way you use your electricity would

have to be properly sized and specified to fit *your* system. This can only be done by a properly-qualified technician or electrician who would start by testing and measuring the characteristics of your electricity usage. Only after these results are known will it be possible to recommend ways to improve your energy efficiency.

Last, your utility is more than willing to help you take any steps that may help you to conserve electricity or use your power more efficiently. Contact your utility for their advice before you try anything on your own, especially with unproven technology. They can also advise you as to whether or not a device can actually work as advertised.

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